

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

4 November 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Representative Jonathan Bingham (D., N.Y.)

1. On this date met with Mr. Roger Majak, Legislative Assistant to Representative Jonathan Bingham (D., N.Y.), in connection with his request of 29 October to provide information for possible inclusion in an article to be written by the Congressman for a popular magazine on CIA operations and the congressional role therein.
2. I gave Majak our regular handout material. He said he had done extensive reading including Mr. Kirkpatrick's book, Zlotnick's "The Economics of National Security," floor debates on the joint committee issue, etc.
3. In response to his request for information on the members and committees we contact on a regular and irregular basis:
  - a. Committees. I told him (using the formulation suggested by Mr. Maury) that in addition to our regular four subcommittees, which exercise standard legislative oversight and appropriate our funds, we give a number of substantive intelligence briefings to other committees, within their area of interest, and mentioned the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Senate Foreign Relations, and House Foreign Affairs in this connection. I told him that overall we average two committee briefings a month. I speculated that he could probably confirm this by contacting committees himself and he said he planned to do so and had already contacted the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

He seemed to appreciate the point that this type of information more properly should come from committee sources and not the Agency, specifically CIA Subcommittees in view of their obvious jurisdictional interests. He did not ask for any additional information on this subject.

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b. Members. I told him that I was not sure what he had in mind. I explained that it is our general policy to respond to the interests of Members, but that aside from such mundane things as personnel referrals, our product is generally classified and this clearly raises constraints, at least in the area of constituent inquiries. I ventured that Mr. Bingham probably has his own idea through contacts with his colleagues on whether the Agency is responsive, in view of the obvious constraints on the Agency, to the interests of Members and said that I hoped that our record would be good in this respect. Mr. Majak then referred to his experience in legislative liaison work when he was with AID where a running record was kept on contacts with Members and asked if we could give him some magnitude of order on the number of Agency/Member contacts. He said he in no way was asking for information on the identities of the Members or subjects discussed. I said I would check on this.

4. Thrust of the article. Mr. Majak was not forthcoming on whether the article would be favorable or unfavorable to the Agency, although he assured me that he himself was sold on the need for central intelligence. He said that they didn't want to merely rehash the old arguments, including whether or not our subcommittees were indeed informed on Agency matters or for that matter key members of other committees, that had been made in the past in connection with the joint committee bills. He said they believed CIA should be subject to effective oversight both within the Congress and the Executive Branch and their thought was to take a look at the picture now to come up with an evaluation as to whether we were effectively supervised and whether Agency information is indeed available to those Members of Congress who have a need for it. He said that at most the subject we were discussing would merit one paragraph in the whole article and that he personally thought it might be in the interest of the Agency to have that paragraph reflect the extent to which the channel of communications between the Agency and the Congress are open, if indeed they are.

5. He said Mr. Bingham had initially suggested a letter to the Director to request the information, but he had persuaded him to seek the information through legislative liaison channels. He asked me if a letter would be needed. I told him not for the time being.

STATINTL

Distribution:

Assistant Legislative Counsel

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